

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO PRESIDENT IN SOVIET MEDIA

REF: MOSCOW 18215

1. PRAVDA DECEMBER 21 CARRIES TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON ON SENATE VOTE AGAINST AID TO ANGOLA WHICH REFERS TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT CALLING FOR SENATE RECONSIDERATION SO THAT U.S. CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT "INTERVENTION BY SOUTH AFRICAN RACISTS AND OTHER MERCENERIES" AS WELL AS SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AGAINST " THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA." "THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT," PRAVDA CONTINUES, " CONTAINS UNFRIENDLY EXPRESSIONS (VYSKAZYVANIA) CONCERNING THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA. IT IS IN CLEAR CONTRADICTION WITH THE UN RESOLUTION ON DECOLONIZATION, WHICH CONFIRMED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORTIAL INTEGRITY AND LEBERATION FROM THE COLONIAL YOKE." PRAVDA CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT "CERTAIN FORCES" IN THE U.S.--IMPLICITLY INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT--WANT TO COVER UP SUPPORT FOR ARMED INTERVENTION AGAINST THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA BY DISCUSSION OF "THREAT OF SOVIET INTERFERENCE" IN AREA.

2. THIS IS MOST EXPLICIT NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT WE HAVE SEEN IN SOVIET MEDIA FOR SOME TIME, AND IT
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COMES ON TOP OF OSIPOV REMARKS ON NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE

REPORTED REFTEL A, IN WHICH PRESIDENT WAS DIRECTLY
LINKED TO PUTATIVE COLLUSION BETWEEN U.S.AND PRC
AGAINST "HEGEMONISM" IN NAME BUT FOR HEGEMONY IN FACT.
WHILE TWO BLIPS OF THIS KIND WITHIN A WEEK DO NOT
NECESSARILY CONSTITUTE A TREND, IF UNFAVORABLE REFE-
RENCES TO PRESIDENT PRESONALLY MULTIPLY THEY WILL AT
VERY LEAST SIGNAL TO SOVIET READERS SHARPLY RISING
CONCERN OVER U.S. INTENTIONS.
STOESSEL

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